



For immediate release
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Rapid Response Team activated to aid TWA employees

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- The state Rapid Response Team has been activated to help workers that will be displaced by layoffs at Trans World Airlines (TWA) in Kansas City.

The Rapid Response Team, composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, the University of Missouri Project Refocus and the Full Employment Council, responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist TWA employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"The Rapid Response Team provides free services to Missourians that need assistance in finding new employment opportunities following the loss of a job," said DED Director Joseph L. Driskill. "I encourage these individuals to take advantage of these services and explore the employment opportunities that exist in the Kansas City area."

The Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling and resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

Representatives from DWD and the Full Employment Council are working with the company to ensure that workers have access to these free services. Meetings will be held with workers at 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon on September 12 at the company's facility to explain how these services can help them find a new job.

Following the buyout of TWA by American Airlines, approximately 60 employees who perform data processing for TWA automatic services will be laid off due to prevent duplication of services. These employees will be laid off later this month.

Employers interested in hiring TWA workers can call **1-800-877-8698**.

Since 1983 -- when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established -- more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training and re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response Team can **call DWD at (800) 877-8698 or Steve Dempsey at the Full Employment Council at (816) 254-3297**.